



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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→ *PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO A FRIEND!*

Breakfast with Bruce, & tips for Seniors, in Canton, April 10

Seniors are invited for a complimentary breakfast, with worthwhile information, too! Here's your opportunity to spend a little time with Senator Bruce Patterson, and learn some things you want to know. An RSVP is requested.

This free breakfast will be offered on Monday, April 10th, from 9:00am to 10:30am, at Canton's 'Summit on the Park'. It will have a Springtime theme.

The Summit is located at 46000 Summit Parkway, in Canton. Please call the Canton Senior Center, (734) 394-5485, to reserve your spot.

One Guest Speaker will be Joan Rich, from the Traffic Improvement Association (a non-profit group). She will talk on useful tips for senior drivers. She will address a few issues related to mobility and compensation skills. This will include facts and myths about senior drivers, and engineering changes to aid mature drivers.

Officer LeBlanc of the Canton Township Police Department will speak about safety and driving issues in Canton.

Senator Patterson will also speak on issues of interest to seniors.

Call Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson's District Representative, at (734) 783-1642 with any questions.

Medicare Matters! -- in Brownstown, April 11

Do you have lingering questions on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit? You are not alone.

New coverage begins in May. To learn about the new coverage and how you can reduce the costs of your medicines, come to Brownstown, Tuesday, April 11, from 10am to 4pm.

Sen. Patterson's District Representative, Sue Trussell, is assisting this comprehensive, community-based education program to help people with Medicare, and their families, understand the new coverage, assess their personal situation, understand their choices, compare plan options, then make the enrollment decision that is right for their health and financial situation.

The Brownstown Community Center is at 21311 Telegraph Road, in Brownstown. The phone number there is (734) 675-0920.

You should bring *documentation*:

For the Low-Income Subsidy, these documents can show that you qualify for this benefit:

- bank or credit union statements with current balances
- investment statements and stock certificates
- tax returns
- life insurance policies & related statements
- payroll stubs.

To enroll in a prescription drug insurance plan, please bring:

- a list of current prescriptions, including dosage strengths and instructions
- your Medicare card
- your list of preferred pharmacies
- any correspondence received from former employers, government agencies, or a Medigap insurance provider, about the new Medicare drug benefit ('Part D').

For more information, call Sue Trussell (734) 783-1642.

Plymouth Township gets its Deed done right

Supervisor Richard Reaume rejoiced to receive the Deed for land on which to build a new water tower. Sen. Patterson introduced legislation to make this possible. The new tower will increase water pressure in the western part of the township, and will allow purchase of water at "off-peak" times at cheaper rates, to hold consumer prices down. Construction will begin this year, with completion sometime next year, by best estimates.

For Huron Township, no 'snake farm'

The three distinctive villages of Huron Township, namely New Boston, Willow, and Waltz, want to preserve their individual character, while developing their respective downtown areas. But under current law, there can only be one Downtown Development Authority per jurisdiction. In this case, the sole jurisdiction is the Township, as the villages are unincorporated. To satisfy the law, the villages would be strung together by ribbons of land, a 'snake farm' of mapping, for the convenience of a bureaucrat.

Sen. Patterson was approached by Huron Township's Police Chief Robert Metzger and other members of the Huron Township Capital Improvement Committee. "We went to Sen. Patterson, knowing he was familiar with our situation; he was able to draft a bill to help us, and any other jurisdictions in Michigan with circumstances like ours. Sen. Patterson saw the way to slice the bureaucratic Gordian knot. His bill fits our situation exactly, and we're delighted to be able to move forward. Huron Township can make progress now. Each of our villages can benefit, while keeping its uniqueness." The legislation would allow a single DDA to have separated subsections. "I am thrilled to be able to introduce Senate Bill 1206, which eliminates needless bureaucracy and encourages desperately needed economic growth," said Patterson, whose district includes rural Huron Township.

Long-Range Energy Planning – a hot topic at last!

Sen. Patterson welcomed word Thursday, April 6, that Gov. Granholm had issued an Executive Directive to the Michigan Public Service Commission [MPSC] to produce a plan for electricity by the end of December.

“I’ve been advocating this since I became a Senator in January, 2003, and was appointed Chairman of Technology and Energy. I tried to focus people’s attention on it after 2003’s August Blackout, but encountered complacency. I held a press conference last July, to urge this again. But when the MPSC made no proposals in its summary reports for 2005, published early this year, I decided ‘time’s a-wasting.’ So I convened a Workgroup of experts and involved ‘stakeholders’; I gave them about 40 days to produce an outline of proposals my Committee and the Legislature could examine and move forward.

“What matters is not ‘who claims credit.’ Michigan *needs an energy plan*. Michigan has not had one in over twenty years. Meanwhile, we are *hemorrhaging* money, to the tune of \$20 *billion* per year, buying energy from out of state. Do you think this could affect our cash crunch? Do you think we could find a better way to spend it here?

Homes and businesses depend on stable energy for our future. We must have reliable and affordable energy supplies. Electricity is one of these; and I trust the governor will broaden her directive somewhat. Natural Gas is another related issue. And what we do must be environmentally friendly, technologically up-to-date. Wind’s price hasn’t risen in at least the last millennium! Harnessing wind could supply at least 500 additional megawatts of electricity in Michigan within the next five years, and there’s yet more wind. One newer turbine can produce electricity for about 500 homes. Michigan may have 65 billion kilowatt hours of power blowing past us now. So let’s tap it.”

One prominent Lansing newsman remarked, “The Governor never makes a move without [Bruce Patterson].”

Office Hours schedule for April, 2006

Sue Trussell, Sen. Patterson’s District Representative, will hold office hours at different locations each week. Office Hours will be on *Mondays*, usually from 11 am to 1 pm.

April 10th - Northville District Library (This includes Northville Twp constituents.)

With special hours: 12 – 2pm, following the Canton Breakfast.

April 17th – Trenton Veterans’ Memorial Library, at 2790 Westfield, Trenton

April 24th – Plymouth District Library, at 223 South Main Street, Plymouth

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >.

You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you.

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!